

Cheshire Mills Company Boarding House
West side of Main Street opposite
Cheshire No. 1 Mill
Harrisville
Cheshire County
New Hampshire

HABS No. NH-174

HABS
N.H.
3-HAR
4-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

CHESHIRE MILLS COMPANY BOARDING HOUSE

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Location: West side of Main Street, opposite Cheshire No. 1 Mill, Harrisville, Cheshire County, New Hampshire.
Geographic Location Code: 28 - 0213 - 005
Latitude: 42° 56' 45" N Longitude: 72° 05' 40" W
(Approximate center, intersection Main and Grove Streets.)

Present Owner: Cheshire Mills Co., Main Street, Harrisville, New Hampshire.

Present Occupant: Unoccupied.

Present Use: Vacant.

Statement of Significance: This building, constructed c. 1860, served as a residence for single mill operatives at Harrisville from the time it was built until 1965. It follows closely, in its simple lines and classic proportions, similar but larger scale buildings at Lowell, Massachusetts.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: Cheshire Mills Co.; c. 1860-present (firm in receivership as of first half of 1971).
2. Date of erection: c. 1860.
3. Architect: Unknown.
4. Builder or contractor: Unknown.
5. Original plan and construction: Two stories plus an attic and basement. The attic has dormer windows and was used for tenants' living quarters. The plan is rectangular 72'-2" by 36'-1". Where the second floor and attic are devoted exclusively to bedrooms, the first floor also contains a lounge, dining and kitchen facilities.
6. Alterations and additions: Kitchen wing southwest corner, first floor, n.d.

B. Sources of Information:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Armstrong, John Borden. "Harrisville: A New Hampshire Mill Town in the 19th Century." Ph.D. Dissertation, Boston University. (Microfilm copy on file at National Museum of History and Technology, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.) See bibliography for complete list of unpublished sources.

2. Secondary and published sources:

Armstrong, John Borden. Factory Under the Elms. Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston: 1969. This is the first book to be published on Harrisville. It is based on the Ph.D. Dissertation cited above.

Hellman, Peter. "A 'Williamsburg' That's Really Lived In," New York Times (Sunday, March 28, 1971), Section XX, pp. 7, 35.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This building, constructed c. 1860, served as a residence for single mill operatives at Harrisville from the time it was built until 1965.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: 72'-2" x 36'-1"; two and one-half stories plus basement; rectangular in shape.
2. Foundations: Stone.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Load-bearing red brick, running bond, smooth finish.
4. Structural system, framing: Load-bearing brick exterior walls, light wood framing for interior floors, partitions and roof.
5. Porches, stoops, bulkheads: Bulkhead, west elevation.
6. Chimneys: Four (4).

7. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: Wood frames in masonry openings, wood panelled doors.
- b. Windows and shutters: Wood frames in masonry openings, wood double-hung sash, 6/6.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Gable, slate shingles.
- b. Cornice, eaves: Brick, projects about 12" from exterior face of wall.
- c. Dormers, cupolas, towers: Dormer windows, east and west elevations.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: Rectangular 72'-2" x 36'-1". Central double loaded corridor with bedrooms either side on all floors except that on the first floor the corridor terminates at the central dining room.
2. Stairways: Two (2), north and south portions of central corridor.
3. Flooring: Hardwood.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Walls: plaster on wood lath, all floors except 1st floor where there is a 3'-0" wood wainscot. Ceilings: plaster on wood lath.
5. Doorways and doors: Wood frames, wood panelled doors.
6. Special decorative features: None.
7. Notable hardware: None.
8. Mechanical equipment: None.

D. Site and Surroundings:

General setting and orientation: The building is located to the west of Main Street, directly across the street from the Cheshire Mills which it faces. The site is elevated above the street and mills. The building is set on a level grass lawn with two stately elms symmetrically placed to the east of it.

Prepared by Robert M. Vogel and
Ted Sande
National Park Service
August 12-14, 1968;
July 1971

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This building was recorded as part of the New England Textile Mill Survey II; which was sponsored by the Historic American Buildings Survey of the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation of the National Park Service, and the Smithsonian Institution. The project was assisted by the Merrimack Valley Textile Museum, North Andover, Mass.; the Fall River Historical Society; and the Bristol Community College, Fall River, Mass. It was the second of two summer surveys whose purpose was to record representative examples of the buildings of the New England textile industry.

The field work, historical research and record drawings were done in the summer of 1968 under the direction of Robert M. Vogel (Curator of Mechanical and Civil Engineering, Museum of History and Technology, Smithsonian Institution), Project Director; Professor Melvin M. Rotsch (Architect, Texas A & M University), Project Supervisor; and David L. Bouse (University of Nebraska), Peter S. Conrad (Yale University), Eric N. DeLony (Ohio State University), and Dennis W. Jacobs (University of Kansas), Student Assistant Architects.

Historic documentation and editing of the project data were done in the summer of 1971 by Ted Sande (Architect, University of Pennsylvania), under the auspices of the Historic American Engineering Record of the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation of the National Park Service.